

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – May 13, 2014

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All members were present except Councilman Hedquist.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Brenda Eickhoff-Johnson regarding the Work Plan for the Community Action Partnership. Brenda provided some information on the assessment process with regard to Human Service needs in the community. The final data on the assessment for 2014 will be available in the near future. Brenda noted that CAP has been working on the Life Steps Campus with the transitional housing program and has seen 78% of the participants move to permanent housing. Health Care For the Homeless has noted that 71% of the patients seen were diagnosed with mental health issues. The focus for 2015 will be on dealing with the mental health issues associated with homelessness. All of the housing units at Life Steps are full and there may be some opportunity to expand the units available to accommodate some additional transitional housing needs. The Housing First Program which deals with chronic homelessness has been meeting and looking at the possibility of acquiring additional emergency housing units. Council thanked Brenda for the work that her agency is doing.

The next item on the agenda was a report from Fleur Tremel and Dennis Rollins regarding the programming contract for Channel 3. The initial problems experienced by this project involved equipment issues at the City's site which required the installation of new equipment and update of the software. Council asked that some effort be made to put together a schedule which would provide for rebroadcasting of Council meetings and Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings beyond the live broadcast. Additional upgrades to the system would be needed to allow for new programs to be loaded off-site to the channel. This will be examined for future programming.

The City Attorney addressed the request from Council to examine the possibility of providing access to other groups to use the Council Chambers as a public forum. In order to allow this to happen it would be important to provide specific guidelines on how groups would request to use the Chambers and what costs would be involved in allowing this use. It was generally agreed that any additional costs for personnel to open the building and manage the facility would need to be covered by the users. Whether or not use of the room would include use of the cable tv access channel would be addressed in the guidelines. After a lengthy discussion it was decided not to move forward with opening the Chambers to outside groups at this time until additional study could be made of what might need to be included in any of the user policies.

Eric Rasmussen and Mike Stypa from Charter addressed the Council on the services which are being provided under the franchise with the City. Over 20,000 subscribers currently use the cable services in the Casper area. Franchise fees paid to the city on an annual basis exceed \$1 million. There are 30 service technicians assigned to the Casper area and a 24 hour/7 day/week response number. The company plans to move to an all digital network in the next year.

Councilman Goodenough questioned the value of having a second broadcast area in City Hall as provided in the franchise. Mr. Rasmussen indicated that the City Manager submitted a formal request that the company would work with the City to meet that request.

Gilda Lara and Eric Nelson provided the City Council with an update on activities that are being conducted by the Chamber organization. The Chamber has requested an increase in the funding from the City in the FY2015 budget.

Judge Brian Christensen from the County Drug Court provided an update to the City Council on the activities in the Court.

At 7:15 p.m. it was moved by Councilman Hopkins, seconded by Councilman Sandoval to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

City Manager Patterson left the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

At 8:34 it was moved by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Cathey to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.